

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-48. (Cancelled)

49. (new) A method of making a synchronizing device assembly for a vehicle shift transmission including a first synchro ring with a first friction surface, and a second synchro ring with a second friction surface which in use selectively engages the first friction surface, said method comprising:

making said first synchro ring from a metallic basic material, and

reducing penetration of sulfur particles into said first friction surface to maintain a constant coefficient of friction.

50. (new) A method according to Claim 49, wherein the step of reducing penetration of sulfur particles includes nitride hardening said first synchro ring to form one of a non-metallic  $\gamma'$ -connecting layer and a non-metallic  $\epsilon$ -connecting on said first friction surface.

51. (new) A method according to Claim 50, further comprising nitride hardening said first synchro ring to form the non-metallic  $\gamma'$ -connecting layer of  $\text{Fe}_4\text{N}$  on said first friction surface.

52. (new) A method according to Claim 50, further comprising nitride hardening said first synchro ring to form the non-metallic  $\epsilon$ -connecting layer of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{N}$  or  $\text{Fe}_3\text{N}$  on said first friction surface.

53. (new) A method according to Claim 50, further comprising plasma-nitride-hardening said first synchro ring.